

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

A distributed computer ~~operating~~ system operates in accordance with a distributed application program made up from user-modifiable event-driven component processes ~~is disclosed~~. Known distributed ~~computers~~ systems of this type carry out the modification of processes at a single computer leading to a lack of robustness in the operation of the distributed ~~computers~~ systems as a whole. This problem is alleviated by providing each computer which runs a component (621) of the distributed application program with a component modification facility. The operation of the component (621) in reaction to the receipt of an event message is modified in accordance with policies stored in a database ~~(623)~~. In order to simplify the task of the user in writing such policies, a component details registry (627) is also provided which gives the names and parameters of procedures or methods offered by the component (621).